Reviewer's report

Title: Liquid and vapour-phase antifungal activities of selected essential oils against Candida albicans: Microscopic observations and chemical characterization

Version: 1 Date: 7 September 2010

Reviewer: Sydney Alves

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Minor essential Revisions:

The authors must always write "essential oil"; in this context the word "oil" without "essential" does not sound correct.

The authors must include the scientific names of lemon grass, mentha and eucalyptus in the first time that mention it.

Page 5 - Pseudomonas aeruginosa: require correction

Page 6 - Why did the authors not determine MICs from broth macrodilutions? It would be more reasonable than employ agar dilution method. The MFCs would be determined from that concentrations (previously used by MICs determination) where growth was not observed.

Page 8 - "Disc volatilisation assay": this technique was not referenced; was it standardized by the authors? was it published? The authors must include a reference for this assay.

Page 9: "The preparation of C.albicans samples for morphological study" requires references.

Page 13 - LGO - this and other abbreviations would be established in Material and Methods.

Page 19 - Lippia sidoides - put it in italic

Page 20 - "Lemon grass oil vapour may be considered as a potential agent for preventing Candida invasion and subsequent infections". This statement must be deleted because the study did not evaluate the essential oils ability to preventing candidiasis infections or invasion. Remember that candidiasis are opportunistic fungal infections which depend from immunological status of the patients.

Table 1 - We suggest the title or similar: "MICs and MFCs of mentha essential oil, eucalyptus essential oil and lemon grass essential oil obtained by different methods".

Table 3 - I think this table is not necessary because some MICs for comparisons may be cited in the text; some MICs included show different units (mg/L; %)

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests below.